

Resident Research Guidelines

How to get involved in a research project

1. Check out the [Research During Residency web page](#).
2. Complete the [REDCap Initial Research Survey](#)
3. Schedule a meeting with a liaison committee member – Plan to have this meeting before your first research block.
 - a. Each Division in Medicine has a resident research liaison
 - b. List is available on the Research During Residency web page and below
 - c. Be prepared to discuss:
 - i. Any prior research experience.
 - ii. Any specific interests (eg. pulmonary hypertension, transitions of care, etc.)
 - iii. Any specific research questions – if you have them
4. No idea what you want to do?
 - a. This is common and okay. Contact the APD for research Dr. Deepak Gupta, d.gupta@vumc.org
5. Reach out to the faculty suggested by the Research Liaison or APD
 - a. Be prepared to discuss:
 - i. Any specific research questions or interests you have
 - ii. Your timeline (schedule, research blocks, etc.)
6. Characteristics of a good resident research project
 - a. Can be done in your off hours and free time
 - i. Be honest with yourself and your mentor about your time availability and whether it aligns with the type of research project
 - b. Leverages existing data (e.g., cohort studies, synthetic derivative, etc. are often most effective for residents)
 - i. Check out [BioVU](#)
 - c. Addresses a very specific, focused question

Once you find a mentor and project (Goal: by end of PGY-1 year)

1. Establish expectations

- a. Expectation setting and management are vital to any successful research partnership/mentorship.
- b. Establish need / plan for [IRB](#)/IACUC approval.
- c. It is very important to meet with your mentor to explicitly review their expectations regarding project timelines, responsibilities, abstract/manuscript submission deadlines etc. EARLY in the project planning phase.
- d. Make sure you understand your role in the project and know exactly what you are going to be doing so that there are no misunderstandings. Establish who will be doing the statistical analysis. Some mentors will have their own statistical team, others will not. The [Vanderbilt biostats clinic](#) is an excellent starting point. You can [email](#) them for more information.
- e. It is okay and expected to discuss with your mentor their requirements for authorship order (1st/2nd/3rd author). Remember, the authorship order is largely determined by each person's contribution to the project and relative weighing of different aspects of project completion (data gathering, statistical analysis, manuscript writing etc.) and should be discussed UPFRONT.

2. Discuss timeline and milestones

- a. Set clear timelines and milestones.
 - i. Be realistic about how long it will take to do the work.
- b. Plan to attend a national meeting
 - i. Presenting an abstract at a national meeting is a great way to get something concrete on your CV/fellowship application.
 - ii. Remember that abstract deadlines are many months before the meeting (6-9 months for most meetings) so you should discuss this with your mentor early on.
 - iii. The DOM has money for you to attend a meeting.

3. Get to work!

Pro Tips

1. **Start early.** Getting a project up and running takes time, often several weeks or months. Clinical projects require IRB training and approval and can take 4-6 weeks. Allow about 3 months to get all of this done before your research blocks.
 - a. Learn more: [Choosing a Research Project and a Research Mentor. Circulation 2009;119:1832-1835](#)
2. **Be prepared to do the work.** Research requires an investment of time and planning. Be realistic about what you can accomplish in the time you have to dedicate to research. If you say you will do something, make sure you deliver in the agreed upon time frame.
 - a. [PubMed Health – PICO framework](#)
 - b. [Example guide to searching PubMed](#)
3. **Be proactive.** It is your responsibility to keep the momentum going on your project. Check in with your mentor on a regular basis to provide updates, schedule meetings, plan next steps. You are in charge of making your project happen. Do not wait for your mentor to contact you.
 - a. Mentors are busy, responding to tasks in a timely manner allows for efficient feedback—a response to a question in 48 hours does not require the mentor to re-learn the question.
4. **Plan ahead.** Preparing research products (abstracts, posters, manuscripts, presentations) takes time and requires input from all authors. For initial review, send first draft to co-authors at least a 4-6 weeks before the deadline and allow for a one week turnaround time. Expect at least two rounds of edits for each item. Larger products (manuscripts) take longer than smaller products (abstracts).
 - a. Learn more from [BRET](#), VUSM Biomedical Research Education and Training
5. **Use Institutional Resources.** Vanderbilt Health has many resources available to help you get your project done. These include Biostatistical support through weekly Biostats Clinics and a host of core laboratory facilities.
 - a. [Biostats clinic](#)
 - b. [REDCap training videos](#)
6. **Get approval.** Ensure all final documents submitted for consideration for publication have been approved by the mentor.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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2026-2027

Resident Research Liaisons

Division/Department	Liaison
Healthcare Informatics	Travis Osterman
Cardiology	Aaron Aday
Clinical Pharmacology	Matt Luther
Community Impact	Elisa C. Friedman
EMR Research (BioVU)	Quinn Wells
Endocrinology	Mona Mashayekhi
Epidemiology/Public Health	Danxia Yu
Gastroenterology	Dhyanesh (Dan) Patel
General Medicine	Christianne Roumie
Genetics	Doug Ruderfer
Community Health	Jennifer Hess
	Rohini Chakravarthy
	Ebele Umeukeje
Health Services Research	Sunil Kripalani
Hematology	Brent Ferrell
Infectious Diseases	Jessica Castilho
LGBTQ Studies	Kevin Niswender
Medical Education	Cody Chastain
Nephrology	Eddie Siew
Oncology	Doug Johnson
Palliative Care	Mohana Karlekar
Pulmonary	Julie Bastarache
Quality Improvement	Jill Jones
Rheumatology	Amy Major